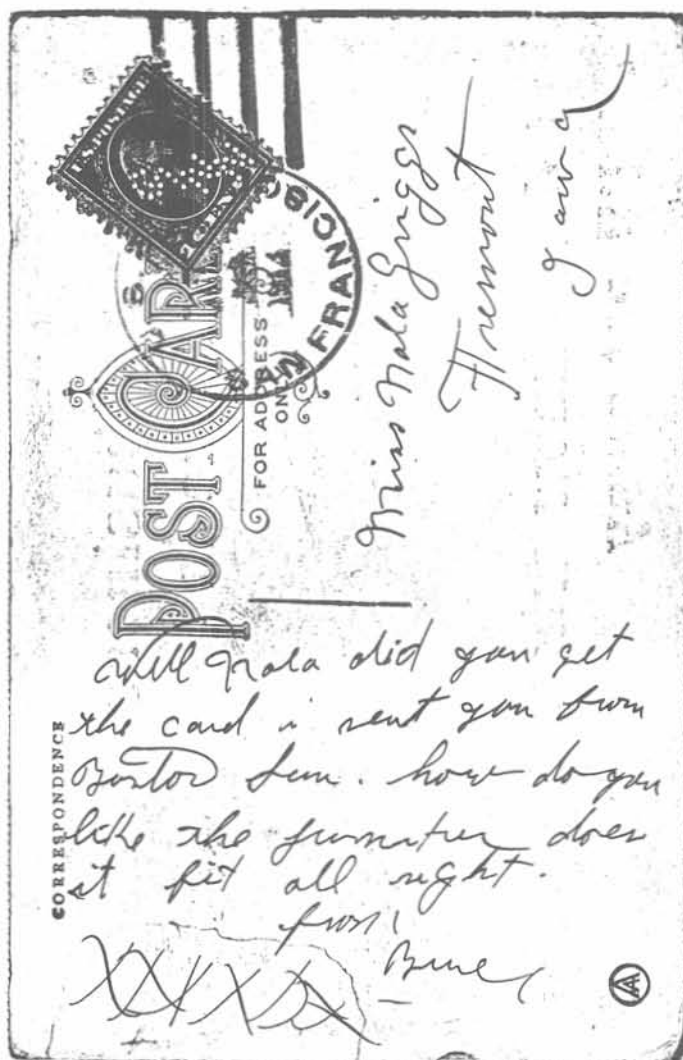


A Naval Matter G104 used aboard ship

David A. Kent (#1901)



The postcard shown above is from the USS *San Francisco* mailed with a 1912 1 cent Washington-Franklin head stamp punched "GINN". The perfin is pattern G104 according to *The Catalog of United States Perfins*, 1979, by Balough and Balough. The user is Ginn & Company of Cambridge, MA.

The question, of course, is why a perfin being used on a Navy ship? The *San Francisco* was an Atlantic Fleet ship at the time, and the postcard is a view of Newport, RI, then a major naval base.

Without going to the National Archives and checking the ship's Log, I can not tell if she was in Newport at the time of posting. Consider that sailors often bought pictures postcards when in port only to use them long after leaving that port.

It is my opinion that a sailor on-board *San Francisco* acquired the stamp on a piece of mail or as a small refund and used the perfin on his own mail.

Does anyone have a better suggestion?